

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making siRNA, the method comprising the steps of:
recombinantly coexpressing a Dicer protein with an Drosophila R2D2 protein to form a complex comprising the R2D2 protein and the Dicer protein, and
contacting the complex with a target double-stranded (ds) RNA comprising a predetermined sequence under conditions wherein the complex cleaves the dsRNA into siRNA.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the R2D2 protein is a Drosophila R2D2 protein and~~ the Dicer protein is a Drosophila Dicer-2 protein.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the Dicer protein and the R2D2 protein are coexpressed using a baculovirus expression system in insect cells selected from the group consisting of S2, Sf9 and Hi5 cells.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the Dicer protein and the R2D2 protein are coexpressed using a baculovirus expression system in insect cells selected from the group consisting of S2, Sf9 and Hi5 cells.
5. (canceled)